New rail project in Punjab

1512. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has proposed any new rail projects in the State; and

(b) if, so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R VELU): (a) and (b) As per available records, Government of Punjab has requested for a new rail line from Khemkaran to Firozpur to provide a direct connectivity between Amritsar to Firozpur. Earlier, a survey in this area had been conducted in February, 2002 for Patti (near Khemkaran) to Mahlam (near Firozpur) at a cost of Rs. 121.60 crore with rate of return as (-) 30.12%. In view of heavy throw forward of ongoing projects, limited availability of resources and unremunerative nature, the proposed new line was not taken up.

Rail service between Qazigund and Baramulla

† 1513. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when train services between Qazigund and Baramulla in Kashmir are going to commence;

(b) the details of proposed train services in other sections in Kashmir in addition to the above; and

(c) the plan to link Kashmir to other parts of country through rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R VELU): (a) Qazigund-Baramulla section is targeted for completion by May, 2008. Train services between Qazigund and Baramulla in Kashmir are planned to be commenced in 2008-09.

(b) Udhampur-Katra section is planned for completion by December, 2008.

(c) The plan to link Kashmir to other parts of the country through rail line is by 2011-12 after completion of works on Katra-Qazigund section.

Gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari rail line

1514. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of gauge conversion between Bhiladi, Samdari has been given to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details of the progress;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is any requirement of financial contribution from the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details of status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Earthwork, bridgeworks and trackworks taken up. Mega block for conversion is planned from December, 2007 onwards.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Steel production

1515. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:. Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steel plants working at present in the country as on date, steel plant-wise/State-wise;

(b) the details of production of steel plants during the last three years;

(c) whether steel production is less/more than the domestic requirement in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steel exported by Government to various countries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) State-wise, plant-wise, details of steel plants, working at present in the country, and the production of crude steel in these plants are given in the Statement-I *(See* below).

(c) and (d) The details of production and consumption of finished non-alloy steel in the country during the last three years is given in table below. Steel production is more than the domestic requirements and domestic production has been able to meet domestic requirements in all three years, as reflected in figures of consumption.

Year	Non-alloy steel (unit: '000 tonnes)	
	Net production for sale	Consumption
2004-05	41318	34389
2005-06	44390	39185
2006-07	49575	43743

(e) Details of country-wise export of steel by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), the two steel PSUs under Ministry of Steel, are given in the Statement-II